

THIRTEEN HOST CITIES ANNOUNCED FOR 2012 AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA INCLUDING FIRST-TIME PARTICIPANT: SONORA

*Challenging Route to Take Cyclists Over More Than 750 Miles of Striking California Terrain During
America's Premier Cycling Race from May 13 – 20, 2012*

LOS ANGELES (November 3, 2011) – After reviewing more than 100 submissions from cities throughout California hoping to be named official start or finish locations, AEG, presenter of the **Amgen Tour of California**, has announced the 13 official Host Cities for the 2012 race. Considered America's largest and most prestigious professional road cycling stage race, the seventh consecutive edition of the **2012 Amgen Tour of California** will travel more than 750 miles from May 13 – 20, 2012.

"Our goal for the **Amgen Tour of California** has always been to create a route that not only provides a challenging race for the world's top cyclists, but one that highlights the beauty and diverse terrain that make up the great state of California as well," said Kristin Bachochin, executive director of the **Amgen Tour of California**. "Every year we challenge ourselves to raise the bar once again and create a route more challenging than the last, but that's the great thing about planning a race in California, there is so much from which we can choose. From epic climbs to fast and flat stages to rolling hills and thrilling finishes by the sea, California has it all."

One of the new cities added for 2012 is **Sonora**, located in Tuolumne County in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains just minutes north of Yosemite National Park. "Sonora is honored to have been chosen for this very prestigious event," says Mayor Bill Canning.

"Starting a segment of the Tour in Sonora provides an exciting opportunity to showcase California's gold country on an international stage," adds Assembly Member Kristin Olsen. "This region offers riders and fans unparalleled scenic beauty and historic charm and will make a great addition to the race."

As announced earlier this year, Stage 1 of the race will start in **Santa Rosa**, hometown of three-time **Amgen Tour of California** Champion Levi Leipheimer. The race will then take the riders from **San Francisco** to **Santa Cruz County** for Stage 2, starting with the Golden Gate Bridge as a backdrop and once again bringing the route back along the picturesque coast of the Pacific Ocean. Heading inland, Stage 3 of the race will begin in **San Jose** (the only city to be a Host City each of the previous six years of the event) and end in **Livermore**, traversing an entirely new part of the State not showcased in previous editions of the race.

A new city for 2012, Stage 4 will start in the scenic foothills community of **Sonora** and wind its way south, featuring several new climbs, before what's sure to be a dramatic sprint finish in **Clovis**.

The much-anticipated Individual Time Trial, Stage 5, will be held in **Bakersfield**, a city that has hosted the **Amgen Tour of California** before (although not the Time Trial specifically), likely proving to favor those who have more than just speed as part of their repertoire.

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Stage 6 will start in **Palmdale** and head to **Big Bear Lake**, which was the site of a thrilling stage finish in 2010 when Michael Rogers (AUS) of HTC-Columbia secured his place as the race leader. For 2012, new challenges arise as a new climb is thrown into the mix.

Stage 7 of the race will start in **Ontario**, another new city for 2012, and once again include a grueling route to the top of **Mt. Baldy**. During the 2011 race, Mt. Baldy was the scene of an electric stage finish when American cyclists and RadioShack teammates Chris Horner and Levi Leipheimer crossed the finish line first and second respectively.

The final stage of the **2012 Amgen Tour of California**, Stage 8 will take place in the heart of Downtown **Los Angeles**, sending riders in and around L.A. LIVE, the sports and entertainment district which includes STAPLES Center and Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE within its footprint, for an epic overall finish to a thrilling race.

"This race is special because it takes place in one of the most beautiful places in the world – California," said Chris Horner, 2011 **Amgen Tour of California** champion. "The Host Cities are always so welcoming and the crowds are always great, not to mention, they provide some of the toughest racing terrain around! I'm looking forward to racing in California again and defending my title in 2012."

In celebration of today's announcement, each Host City created a short video introducing their town and the Stage they will be hosting. The videos feature iconic images from each city, and have been combined to create one exciting overview of the Host Cities for the **2012 Amgen Tour of California**.

"It goes without saying that our Host Cities play one of the most crucial roles in this race, so we are thrilled to have a group of extremely supportive cities as our partners," continued Bachochin. "Each one of these cities is committed to not only promoting this race, but the sport of cycling overall."

For 2012, Amgen will return as the title sponsor for the seventh consecutive year, continuing to leverage the race to raise awareness of the important resources available to people affected by cancer through its *Breakaway from Cancer*® initiative. A leading global biotechnology company with headquarters in California, Amgen's invaluable support has helped to ensure the continued success of the race and impact beyond the sporting arena.

"Amgen stands ready to collaborate with this year's Host City communities to spread awareness about our company, our mission to serve patients, and the incredible support services that are available at no cost to people affected by cancer through Amgen's nonprofit *Breakaway from Cancer* partner organizations," said Stuart Arbuckle, vice president and general manager, Amgen Oncology.

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Carrying an elite distinction, the **Amgen Tour of California** is listed on the international professional cycling calendar (2. HC, meaning “beyond category”), awarding important, world-ranking points to the top finishers.

The **Amgen Tour of California** continues to draw global attention as one of the most anticipated cycling events of the year – one that attracts Olympic medalists, World Champions and the top Tour de France competitors.

“Everyone always looks forward to the **Amgen Tour of California** because it has it all – a challenging route, fierce competition, incredible fans and a beautiful setting,” said Christian Vande Velde, who placed fourth overall in the 2011 **Amgen Tour of California**. “I feel proud to be an American cyclist right now, when events like this race not only showcase the great racing that takes place here, but the amazing talent as well.”

The 13 Host Cities for the **2012 Amgen Tour of California** include:

- Stage 1: Sunday, May 13 – Santa Rosa
- Stage 2: Monday, May 14 – San Francisco to Santa Cruz County
- Stage 3: Tuesday, May 15 – San Jose to Livermore
- **Stage 4: Wednesday, May 16 – Sonoma (new for 2012) to Clovis**
- Stage 5: Thursday, May 17 – Bakersfield (Individual Time Trial)
- Stage 6: Friday, May 18 – Palmdale to Big Bear Lake
- Stage 7: Saturday, May 19 – Ontario (new for 2012) to Mt. Baldy
- Stage 8: Sunday, May 20 – Los Angeles/L.A. LIVE

Assuming her new position as executive director of the **Amgen Tour of California**, 2012 will mark the first full year that Bachochin will take complete leadership of the overall production and management of the event. Bachochin, who has been involved with the **Amgen Tour of California** since its inception, will have the responsibility of overseeing everything from operations to marketing.

For further information on the **2012 Amgen Tour of California**, and to view the **2012 Amgen Tour of California** Host Cities video, visit www.amgentourofcalifornia.com.

About the Amgen Tour of California

The largest cycling event in America, the **2012 Amgen Tour of California** is a Tour de France-style cycling road race, created and presented by AEG, that challenges the world’s top professional cycling teams to compete along a demanding course from May 13-20, 2012.

About Amgen

Amgen discovers, develops, manufactures, and delivers innovative human therapeutics. A biotechnology pioneer since 1980, Amgen was one of the first companies to realize the new science's

promise by bringing safe, effective medicines from lab to manufacturing plant to patient. Amgen therapeutics have changed the practice of medicine, helping millions of people around the world in the fight against cancer, kidney disease, rheumatoid arthritis, bone disease and other serious illnesses.

With a deep and broad pipeline of potential new medicines, Amgen remains committed to advancing science to dramatically improve people's lives. To learn more about our pioneering science and vital medicines, visit <http://www.amgen.com>. Follow us on www.twitter.com/amgen.

About Breakaway from Cancer®

Founded in 2005 by Amgen, *Breakaway from Cancer*® is a national initiative to increase awareness of important resources available to people affected by cancer – from prevention through survivorship. *Breakaway from Cancer* is a collaboration between Amgen and four nonprofit partner organizations: Prevent Cancer Foundation, Cancer Support Community (formerly known as The Wellness Community), Patient Advocate Foundation, and National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship. These organizations offer a broad range of support services complementing those provided by a patient's team of healthcare professionals. For more information, please visit www.breakawayfromcancer.com or follow us @BreakawayCancer on Twitter.

About AEG

AEG is one of the leading sports and entertainment presenters in the world. AEG, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Anschutz Company, owns or controls a collection of companies including facilities such as STAPLES Center, The Home Depot Center, Sprint Center, The O2, Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE and Times Square's Best Buy Theater; sports franchises including the Los Angeles Kings (NHL), two Major League Soccer franchises, two hockey franchises operated in Europe, management of privately held shares of the Los Angeles Lakers, the Bay to Breakers foot race and the **Amgen Tour of California** cycling road race; AEG Live, the organization's live-entertainment division, is a collection of companies dedicated to all aspects of live contemporary music performance, touring and a variety of programming and multi-media production. For more information, visit AEG today at www.aegworldwide.com.

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